GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:459
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002
INDO-US TRADE RELATION
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which India and United States trade relations have been established;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal for the expansion of trade relation with United States;

(c) if so, the new areas identified therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (d) - A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 459 FOR ANSWE
20.12.2002 REGARDING INDO-US TRADE RELATION.

(a) The United States of America (USA) is India`s largest trading partner and foremost export destination.The two-way trade structure comprises a large number of traditional and manufactured goods, which has also undergone changes over the years. The major items of India`s export to USA include diamond and gold jewellery, textiles and readymade garments, machinery, carpets, footwear and leather products, dyes, iron and steel products, chemicals and marine products. The major items of India`s import from USA include machinery including project items, fertilizers, aircraft and aeronautical equipment, medical equipment and organic chemicals. Besides, the merchandise trade, there is substantial bilateral trade in services.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government`s efforts to expand Indo-US trade are a sustained and continuous process.Besides promoting India`s exports to USA in general and identifying products with good export potential and targeting these sectors, efforts are made to break into new areas to exploit untapped potential. Special emphasis is given to developing new and fast growing areas, such as information technology and biotechnology, promoting exports through participation in major trade shows and specific trade promotion events, apart from streamlining the information and data base of the Indian Embassy in USA to enable it to respond to trade enquiries in a timely and effective manner. Close monitoring takes place of important bilateral trade related issues in liaison with U.S. authorities. To further buttress these efforts, the two sides agreed to set up on 23.3.2000 the India-US Commercial Dialogue.The framework aims to facilitate trade and to maximize investment opportunities across a broad range of economic sectors, including information technology, infrastructure, biotechnology and services.